

REMARKS

The applicants propose amending claim 17 to improve form. Claims 1-33 remain pending upon entry of this Amendment.

Initially, the applicants acknowledge, with appreciation, the indication that claims 1-16 and 23-33 have been allowed.

Claims 17-22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Seshan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,145,027; hereinafter Seshan). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

While not agreeing with the rejection, but to expedite prosecution, claim 17 has been amended to recite features similar to claim 1, which has been allowed. Claim 17, therefore, is believed to be allowable for reasons similar to claim 1. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claim 17 are respectfully requested.

Claims 18-22 are dependent on claim 17 and are believed to be allowable for at least the reasons claim 17 is allowable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection and allowance of claims 18-22 are respectfully requested.


CONCLUSION

The applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered, placing the application in condition for allowance. The applicants submit that the proposed amendment does not raise new issues or necessitate any additional search by the Examiner since the Amendment merely incorporates features similar to those in a pending independent claim into another pending independent claim. Furthermore, the applicants submit that the entry of this Amendment would place the application in better form for appeal, in the event that the application is not allowed. If the Examiner does not believe that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance, please feel free to contact the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of this application.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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